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CD NO.

COUNTRY

Italy

SUBJECT 25X1A6a Internal Administrative Strife in ANSA (Agenzia NazionAle Stampa Associata) -(National Associated Press Agency)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFO.

April - May 1949 25X1X6

- The Italian Ministry of Finance will reportedly hold a private auction on 15 May 1949 in order to liquidate the entire holdings of the Stefani News Agency. These holdings are evaluated at 9,000,000 lire in assets and 90,000,000 lire in liabilities. The most important factor connected with the bidding is the fact that the property and installations of the Rome central headquarters are included in the estate. These offices, at 27 Via Propaganda, were allocated to ANSA by the Italian Government after the liberation of Rome for a small monthly rental fee, with the understanding that ANSA would evacuate on 15 days notice if requested to do so.
- ANSA, at the present time, was a deficit in excess of 3,000,000 lire per month owing to an excess of personnel and excessive expenditures within the agency. The new Director General of ANSA, Leonardo Azzarita, instead of cutting down his operating expenses, has overloaded his personnel staff and incressed expenditures further.
- Internal strife in ANSA 1: caused by the differences between Azzarita and a group of ANSA promoters headed by the Communist Renato Kieli, Domenico Capocaccia, President of Radiostampa, and the Communist sympathizer Umberto De Medici, Director of Radiostampa. This group, angered by the "dictato ial methods" of Azzarita, would like to dispose of him and have wish absorbed by its subsidiary organization Radiostampa. Through Fadiostampa, this group would then control radio transmissions to foreign countries of Italian press news. They also hope to form a financial combination that would detach the transmission of gress news within Italy from ANSA and append that function to Radiostampa.
- A further manifests/lon of the confliction of interests within ANSA is the opposition to Azarita expressed by (fnu) Fanti of Turin, President of Telestampa, a subsidiary of ANSA, organized to transmit Italian and foreign news from MSA to the Italian newspapers by teletype.
- This internal conflict has caused Reuter's News Agency to postpone indefinitely the renewal of the contract between Reuter's and ANSA which called for the former to provide the latter with news items,

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCY AGENCY

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Edgardo Longoni, former Director General of ANSA, acting in behalf of a group of financiers (unidentified), intends to bid in the Stefani auction in the hope of gaining possession of the Rome headquarters at 27 Via Propaganda and having the satisfaction of deposing Azzarita and his staff.



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